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Appendix IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 437 asked by Sri M. Dharmalingam at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 14th July 1953, page 21 supra.]

Government of India letter No. BCC/KK/53, dated 25th February 1953.

As the State Government are aware the Backward Classes Commission set up by the President under Article 340 of the Constitution of India has already started functioning and we would desire to have a good deal of factual information and data in respect of backward classes existing in the State in order to plan the programme of Commission's activities.

It is, therefore, requested that the following information be furnished to the Commission as quickly as possible :—

(i) the criterion adopted for determining "backward classes";

(ii) the list of classes, communities, etc., which have been accepted as "backward", particularly those other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(iii) the population of each of such classes, sections or communities classified according to rural and urban areas, rural and urban figures to be shown separately;

(iv) whether these classes are distributed over the whole area of the State or concentrated in particular regions only and if concentrated in a particular locality the name or names of the centre(s) or nuclei where they are so concentrated should be mentioned; and

(v) the measures that are being undertaken for the amelioration of these "backward classes".

It will be appreciated if the information asked for is sent as expeditiously as possible in any case within about a fortnight's time.

Letter from the Secretary to Government, Education Department, to the Chairman, Backward Classes Commission, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, dated New Delhi, the 10th March 1953, Reference No. 9211 D/53-1, Education.

[Information regarding backward classes. *Reference.*—Your letter No. BCC/KK/53, dated 25th February 1953.]

I am directed to furnish the following information regarding backward classes of this State :—

Item (i) in paragraph 2.—The criterion is whether a particular class of citizens is socially, economically and educationally backward.

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Item (ii) in paragraph 2.—A copy of G.O. No. 839, Education, dated 6th April 1951, containing a list of backward classes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as appended to the Madras Educational Rules is enclosed.

Item (iii) in paragraph 2.—In the recent census, there was no enumeration in the order of the communities and therefore information regarding the total population of each community included in the list of Backward classes is not available. The total figures available in the Statistical Tables relating to the Backward classes are however furnished below :—

	Unscheduled Backward classes.		
	Persons.	*Males.*	*Females.*
State Total	19,716,215	9,809,538	9,906,677
Rural	16,394,946	8,162,943	8,232,003
Urban	3,321,269	1,646,595	1,674,674

Item (v) in paragraph 2.—The information is annexed to this letter.

I am to state that the information called for in item (iv) of paragraph 2 of your letter is not readily available and every attempt will be made to furnish it as early as possible.

Memorandum No. 9211-*D*/53-2, *Education, dated* 10*th March* 1953.

[Information regarding " Backward classes ". *Reference.*—From the Government of India, No. BCC/KK/53, dated 25th February 1953.]

A copy of the letter cited is forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction. Director of Harijan Welfare/He is requested to furnish necessary particulars for sending a reply to item (iv) in paragraph 2 therein.

K. M. Unnithan,
Secretary to Government.

Ameliorative measures undertaken for the welfare of the Backward classes in the State.—In the matter of admission of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and other Backward communities, candidates belonging to the above communities will be admitted up to a limit of 25 per cent of the seats available in each training school and this concession will be in force for a period of three years, i.e., from 1952–53 to 1945–55. So far as Government Arts and Engineering Colleges are concerned, 15 per cent and 25 per cent of the seats are reserved for the admission of students belonging to the Scheduled classes (and Tribes) and the Backward classes respectively.

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Scholarships.—Students studying in various Arts colleges and Professional colleges, such as Law, Medical, Agriculture, Engineering, Technology, etc., are granted both residential and non-residential scholarships. Besides, scholarships for other professional courses, such as, Vidwan, Co-operative, Midwifery, Industrial, etc., are also given.

Examination fees.—The Harijan Welfare Department grants exemption from payment of examination fees to those deserving students who appear for the University examinations subject to budget allotment. The fee compensation foregone by the Universities in respect of Backward Class students is met by Government.

Boarding grants.—Lump-sum boarding grants are sanctioned to the Backward Class pupils at the rate of Rs. 15 per mensem for ten months for the subsidized hostels in which they reside.

Appointment in public services.—Three out of a unit of 20, i.e., 15 per cent of the vacancies have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes while 5 out of a unit of 20, i.e., 25 per cent of the vacancies have been reserved for the other Backward Classes. Apart from the reservation of vacancies in the matter of appointment to the public services, the Scheduled Castes and the other Backward Classes have been given the following concessions :—

(1) For the purpose of minimum general educational qualification prescribed for appointment to certain services, a candidate should ordinarily have obtained in his S.S.L.C. examination 40 per cent of the marks in English and a Second Language, 35 per cent in Elementary Mathematics and an optional subject and 30 per cent in Elementary Science and Outlines of History of England and India and Geography. Scheduled Castes (including converts to Christianity from any other Scheduled Castes) who have obtained 35 per cent in English and in the Second Language are, however, deemed to possess the minimum general educational qualification.

(2) For admission to competitive examinations for appointment to various posts and services advertised by the Commission, no fee is payable by a Scheduled Caste candidate or a Backward Class candidate who has passed Intermediate examination in Arts or who has taken a degree of any of the Universities in the State.

(3) The age-limit prescribed for the various services and posts does not apply to the appointment of a candidate who is a Scheduled Caste or a Backward Class to a post for which the special rules prescribed a qualification lower than the degree of B.A., or B.Sc. if such a candidate possesses a general educational qualification which is higher than the minimum general educational qualification and he is otherwise qualified for appointment. It does not also apply to such a candidate who holds a degree if such degree is not lower than the degree prescribed for the post.